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BULLETIN
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Concerning some Names for Cucurbitæ.

By E. Lewis Sturtevant.

Cucurbita.

The ancient Latin name for the gourd, *Lagenaria*. This identification fulfils all the conditions of the context, wherever I have found the word used, and is rendered the more certain by the statement of Albertus Magnus, 13th century, that the cucurbita has white flowers. The earliest figure that I have seen is in the *Herbarium Maguntæ*, 1484. In 1536, under *Cucurbita*, Brunfelsius figures a gourd, and in Mathiolus' Commentaries, 1560, a pumpkin in figured under the name *Cucurbita Indica*.

Melo.

A Latin word which is used by Palladius about 210 A. D. He speaks of *melones* as being sweet and odorous. In the 13th century Albertus Magnus says "melones, quæ alio nomine pepones" vocantur. Hence *Cucumis melo*, L. as also the *Melon* of Crescentius.

The word melon was used for the pumpkin by Lyte, 1578 and 1586, Gerarde, 1597, Parkinson, 1629 and Ray, 1681; apparently by Cartier, 1535, Hariot, 1586, certainly by Kalm, 1770 and Carver, 1776.

Melon.

A Greek word for an apple, or any tree-fruit, as *melon Kudonion*, the quince; *melon Persikon*, the peach. Hence *melopepon*, an apple-shaped pepon.

PEPO.

This Latin word appears in Pliny, about 79 A. D., where he says *cucumeres* when they obtain excessive size are called *pepones*. In the Roman writers on husbandry the word does not occur. In the 3rd century, Apicius Coelius, a writer on cookery, gives like directions for preparing *pepones* and *melones* for eating, i. e., raw, with spices, as does Parkinson in 1629, for the melon, "with salt and pepper (and good store of wine)." In the 9th century Walafridus Strabo, in his Hortulus, speaks of the *pepo* as a round juicy fruit of delicious taste, but his poetry is too discursive to quote. In the 8th century Charlemagne names *peponas* among the vegetables ordered to be cultivated on his estates, but there is no context, yet as the *pepo* in the 9th century was a melon, we may believe *peponas* to be melons. In the 13th century Albertus Magnus describes his *pepo* as a synonym of *melo*, and as a fruit in whose cavity the seeds float without order. The *pepo* of Vergelius, 1532, is a melon. In 1536 Ruellius says the *pepo* and *melopepo* differ but in form and size, the large melons being *pepones*, or *pompons* in the vernacular French, the round melons *melopepones*. In 1539 Stephanus gives *pompon* and *peponam* as the French vernacular for *pepo*, the melon, and describes a fruit whose flesh is softer, smother, and more insipid than the *melopepo*: a remark that would discriminate to-day between our long yellow muskmelon and round nutmeg melon. The *pepo* of Dorstenius, 1540, is a melon, as also of Roslin, 1550, Lonicerus, 1557, Mizaldus, 1560 and 1565, and Scaliger, 1566.

In 1554 Dodonæus calls three forms of the pumpkin: pepones magni, pepones rotundi, pepones lati. Yet the "Melon and Pepon" of Caesalpinus, 1583, is the melon.

PEPON.

A Greek word used as an adjective, signifying ripe, by Herodotus, 443 B. C., Hippocrates, 430 B. C., Xenophon, 401 B. C., Theophrastus, 322 B. C. and Galen, 164 A. D., and apparently by Galen for the melon. The *pepon* of Scaliger in his commentaries on Aristotle and Theophrastus, is a melon. Homer calls the Achaeans *pepones*, weaklings: i. e. soft and tender. According to Porta, 1592, 'Phanias says *pepones* are eaten when the seed is

removed, but cucumbers are eaten whole. Speusippus calls the gourd *pepon.*' We note *sikuos pepon* and *pepon* used interchangeably in Aristotle, the *sikuos* being eaten unripe and the *pepon* when ripe. The word is said to be derived from *pesso,* to soften, to ripen.

Pepons was an English name for pumpkins as given by Lyte, 1578 and 1586, also Lobel, 1591. The French *pepom* was used for the melon by Lonicerus, 1557, as already noted: the Italian *pepon* by Camerarius, 1586. In 1786 Duchesne gives *pepon* as the French equivalent for *Cucurbita Pepo,* as does Naudin in recent times, and *pepon* is at present a modern Spanish name for the watermelon. These remarks should come rather under *pepo,* as being derived more probably from the Latin than from the Greek.

According to Sprengel the *pepon* of Theophrastus and the *eteros pepon* of Hippocrates is the watermelon, the *Sikuos pepon* of Hippocrates the melon, and the *pepon* of Dioscorides the pumpkin, but in this latter case he certainly is in error.

MELOPEPO.

This Latin word first appears in Pliny, about 79 A. D., in lib. XIX, c. 23, where he says 'a new form of *cucumer* has lately been produced in Campania, ressembling a quince [in smell?]. These are called *melopepones.* They are not pendant, but they are round as they lie on the ground. They are remarkable, in addition to their shape, color and smell, that when ripe they separate spontaneously from the stalk.' The modern Christiana melon fulfils all the conditions of this description.

The *melopepo* of Brunfelsius and Ruellius, 1536, Stephanus, 1539 and Dorstenius, 1540, is the melon. In 1550 it was used for the pumpkin by Eucharius Roslin, and for the summer squash by later writers.

MELOPEPON.

A Greek word which does not seem to be synonymous with the Latin *melopepo.* Heyschius, a Greek lexicographer of uncertain date, called the *melopepon, sikuos spermapas* or seeding cucumbers, as usually translated, as also does Athenæus about 200 A. D. Galen, about 164 A. D., says the interior flesh of the

melopepon is eaten, while in the *pepon* it is rejected. If we translate *sikuos spermapas* as a cucumber with seed in the flesh, we would have the watermelon as it popularly might be described. In the Geoponics, a compilation of about 920 A. D., *melopepons* are described as cooling, as quenching thirst in fevers, and it is implied that the fruit is occasionally bitter: remarks that would apply to the watermelon. The relationship to the cucumber, as indicated by the appellation *sikuos spermapas*, finds like expression in the watermelon names of more modern terms, such as citrull cucumber of Lyte, 1578 and Gerarde, 1597; concombre citrin of Dodonæus, 1554, Lobel, 1591, etc., or even a like name with the cucumber, as cocomber, cogombro, and gurchen of Pinaeus, 1561; concombre in Charante, France, as late as 1827, etc.

PUMPKIN.

The first appearance of this word that I detect is in Evelyn's translation of Quintyne, 1693. The pumpkin was called *pepons* and *pompons* by Lyte, 1578; *pompion* by Gerarde, 1597; *pumpion* by Smith, 1614; *pompeon* and *pumpeon* by Worlidge, 1683; *pumkin* and *pumpkin* by Evelyn, 1693; *pompkin* in Miller's Botanicon, 1722. The foreign words of similar derivation are the Belgian *pepoen*, *pompoen*, the French *pepon* and *pompon*, the German *peponen*, the Italian *pepon*, *pepone*, *peponi*, *poponi*, the Swedish *pompa*, *pumpa*.

May not the origination of the word *pumpkin* be from pomekin, a kind of pome? In 1536 Ruellius says Palladius called melons 'melones a malorum figura, quasi pomeos appellant,' which name yet remains. It is more fanciful than correct to suggest the derivation from *pomp*, the radical sense being to swell, to dilate, and *kin* a kind. But historically it is seen that the origin is from *pepo*, *pepon*, *pompon*, words once in use for the melon, and which were transferred, along with modifications, to the pumpkin about 1554.

CITRULLUS.

This word, which appears as *Citrullus vulgaris*, Schrad., *Cucumis citrullus*, Ser. and *Cucurbita citrullus*, L., also appears in the earlier English name for the watermelon as *citrulls*, *cucumber citrulls* and *pome citruls*, and is allied to the *concombre citrin* of

the French of 1554, 1578, 1590, etc. The word *citrullus* does not occur in the writers on Roman husbandry, nor in Macer Floridus, nor in the Hortulus of Walafridus Strabo, nor in Andrew's Latin Lexicon. In the 13th century Albertus Magnus says the seeds of *citrulus* are like those of the *cucumis* and *pepo*, and his *pepo* is a melon. Crescentius, of the same century, says, in his edition of 1474, that *citruli* are better when small, tender, green and crisp, and are not as good when they yellow, while *cucumeres* are better as they ripen and become soft and smooth. He speaks of the *melanguli*, which are eaten unripe *like the citrullus* and as being of the same savor. In 1536 Ruellius speaks of *citruli* or *turcicæ*, the same names used later for a pumpkin. In 1539 Stephanus speaks of *citrulus* as having dissected leaves, which implies a watermelon. In 1542 Fuchsius figures the watermelon as *cucumer citrulus*, German *citrullen*, and says the pumpkin is also called *citrulus* from its yellow color, and under the name *citrullus* the watermelon is figured in Ruellius' Dioscorides, 1550, Pinaeus, 1561, Morison, 1681, etc. The *citreolus* of Caesalpinus, 1583, appears to be a cucumber.

In Pliny we find *cerini* named among *cucumeres*, and this is translated *citrini* by Ruellius, 1529. Barbarus, who died in 1493, says *citrini cucumeres* were commonly called *citrioli*, that they were larger than the common kind and not striate. In 1542 Fuchsius says the cucumber is called *cucumer citrinus* because it yellows as it ripens.

In the 3rd century Apicius Cœlius gives directions for preparing *citrini*, *cucumis*, *pepo* and *melo* for eating, all to be eaten raw with spices. In the 12th century Ibn-al-Awam, a Moorish Spaniard, mentions the cucumber of a citrin color. In 1629 Parkinson describes a long yellow cucumber, and in 1747 Rumphius a Chinese cucumber in Amboina which he says is like those called in Italy *citrulli*.

It would hence appear that citrullus in early times was a name for a kind of cucumber or a class of cucumbers; in later times an appellation of the watermelon and pumpkin. The large yellow cucumber of Vilmorin, weighing 3½ lbs., at first pale yellow, then bright yellow when ripe, would seem to answer as the type of the *citrullus* of early writers, as well as any.

The best proof that I have discovered, of the existence of the melon among the Romans, says De Candolle, is a fruit figured very perfectly in the fine mosaics of fruits in the museum of the Vatican. Dr. Comes certifies that a half melon is represented in a drawing at Herculaneum. Hence we find a certainty in the fruit, but a doubt is expressed as to the nomenclature, and here is where I think I have suceeded in throwing some light. The summary of my examinations of the meaning of these words used before the discovery of America are, as probabilities:—

Citrullus	=	*Cucumis sativus.*
Cucurbita	=	*Lagenaria vulgaris.*
Melo	=	*Cucumis melo.*
Melopepo	=	*Cucumis melo.*
Melopepon	=	*Citrullus vulgaris.*
Pepo	=	*Cucumis melo.*
Pepon	=	*Cucumis melo.*
Pumpkin	=	modern name for *Cucurbita maxima, Pepo, moschata.*

Sphærella gossypina, n. sp., the perfect Stage of Cercospora gossypina, Cooke.*

By Geo. F. Atkinson.

Plate CXXII

Several times during the autumn of 1890 I found at Auburn, Ala., specimens of a *Sphærella*, few in number, on leaves of *Gossypium herbaceum.* The leaves also have specimens of *Cercospora gossypina*, Cooke, and I suspected the generic connection of the two, though no special stress was laid upon the coincidence, because the leaves were also badly infected with a variety of other fungi. However, during the following winter in looking over a quantity of cotton leaves sent me by correspondents, I found the same *Sphærella* on leaves from Eutaw and Alberta Station, Ala. The leaves were remarkable for being almost covered with a profuse growth of the *Cercospora* on both sides. The *Sphærella* was also very abundant, and I felt warranted in regarding it, with a good degree of certainty, as the perfect stage of *Cercospora.*

*Read before the Botanical Club A. A. A. S. Washington meeting, Aug. 20, 1891.